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COMMENT OF
THE DAY

An Insoluble
Dilemma?

UNLESS the Conservative government and its parliamentary members have found sufficient and good reason for adopting a new attitude since Sir Winston Churchill last delivered a pronouncement on the subject, there is little or no chance of the Opposition motion calling for a Big Three leaders' meeting being approved by the House of Commons. The government's stated position is that no useful purpose would be derived from even exploring the possibility of an Eisenhower-Churchill-Bulgaria conference until the Paris agreements have been fully ratified and the future security of West Germany assured through the accords.

As a tactical approach to an obviously ticklish question this may be wholly right, yet there is probably widespread sympathy for the Socialist proposal. It expresses a growing awareness of the urgency of the question of proper control of thermo-nuclear and atomic weapons, even to a point of their abolition. Mr Attlee is quite decisive about it. It is his contention that production of the hydrogen bomb has presented two alternatives to the nations of the world—co-existence or co-annihilation. And to a certain measure he is supported in this view by the American physicists who last week presented a considered report on the multiple, but by no means entirely predictable effects of thermo-nuclear bombs.

THE fact is the advanced nations of the world have created for themselves a dilemma from which there appears to be no easy escape or simple solution. The abolition of H and A bombs by international agreement may seem to be the obvious answer. But this action does not abolish knowledge, nor would it prevent the unscrupulous from applying that knowledge to aggressive ends in the event of international hostilities ostensibly restricted to the use of what have become known as conventional weapons.

The unpalatable truth is that suspicion dominates international relations today, and all the signs are it will continue to do so. The Communists, headed by Russia, have given no evidence of good faith or honest intention in their dealings with the Western powers; and they, themselves, are clearly convinced that the democracies are trying to trap them into concessions that will weaken their political and military strength.

IN such an atmosphere the prospects of reaching any agreement, on any level, for the control or abolition of the latest annihilating weapons are rather forlorn. Acceptance of this melancholy conclusion would seem to govern the generally accepted idea that the best deterrent to the use of H and A bombs lies in the knowledge of their power to annihilate, and that their use by an aggressor inevitably means retaliation in kind. But even if it is established that the abolition of thermo-nuclear and atomic weapons by international agreement is impossible, that does not rule out completely the possibility of useful top level talks between the three most vitally concerned nations—America, Britain and Russia. Sir Winston Churchill has it on record that he is still eagerly awaiting the proper opportunity for such a meeting, but this might well be sooner than later if the Soviet leaders were on their part to make a suitable gesture.

HONGKONG
MENTAL
HOSPITAL

Statement in House
Of Commons

Our Own Correspondent

London, Mar. 9.
Mr. Henry Hopkinson, Minister of State for the Colonies, today told the House of Commons that the government is concerned about the state of overcrowding in the Hongkong mental hospital.

He had been asked by Socialist MP, Mr. Kenneth Robinson, if he was aware of the overcrowding and unsatisfactory conditions in the Hongkong mental hospital, and what steps he was taking to improve the position in that hospital. Mr. Robinson also asked what plans the government had for additional mental hospital accommodation in Hongkong, and when these were likely to be implemented.

Mr. Hopkinson told him that a new mental hospital is planned for the Colony with accommodation for 500 patients. The first stage—a custodial home with 120 beds—would be completed, it was expected, by the Spring of next year. This, he said, would reduce overcrowding in the existing hospital. Mr. Robinson pointed out that the proposed hospital was some 20 miles from the main population centre. Mr. Hopkinson took note of the point.

Bid To
Avert Party
Split

London, Mar. 10.
Two senior members of the British Labour Party, both former ministers, made an 11th hour bid to avert a split in the party ranks over the Labour "rebel" Mr. Aneurin Bevan, who is threatened with expulsion from the Party Parliamentary group.

Former Secretary of State for War, Mr. John Strachey, and former Home Secretary James Chuter Ede, were reported to be planning an approach to Mr. Clement Attlee, the Party leader, to patch up the crisis which threatens the Labour Party with defeat in the general elections, which are expected in some circles next autumn.

It was learned that Mr. Attlee was against the expulsion of Mr. Bevan, discussed last Monday by the Labour "Shadow Cabinet", but was over-ruled. France-Press.

Murder Charge Follows
Exhumation Of Body

London, Mar. 9.
A British Army sergeant, Frederick Emmett-Dunne, was charged in London today with the murder of Sergeant Reginald Watters, found hanged 16 months ago at Duisberg, West Germany.

Watters was originally declared to have committed suicide. The Army authorities opened the case a fortnight ago, calling in the help of Scotland Yard. Senior detectives went to Germany and Watters' body was exhumed. Detective Superintendent Colin MacDougal, who returned to London to report last week, was present today when Dunne was charged.

British Govt
Repudiates
Proposal
TARIFFS CONTRARY
TO PRINCIPLES

London, Mar. 9.

Mr A. R. W. Low, Minister of State at the Board of Trade, asked the House of Commons today whether they felt this was the time when they would want to take discriminatory action against India or Hongkong. He was replying to the debate on the Opposition motion seeking to censure the government for its policy towards the Lancashire cotton industry.

Mr Low said there was a tendency in some quarters to blame Indian imports for all of Lancashire's present difficulties. But that was not generally correct.

He asked whether they could helpfully take action to restrict Indian imports and leave the door wide open to Hongkong imports.

If India imports alone were restricted, he said, it might be suggested that Hongkong imports would quickly increase and go quite a way to fill the gap.

Mr Low said the suggestion of using tariffs to deal with imports would be contrary to Britain's agreement with India under which Britain enjoyed a valuable preference of 20 per cent on her exports into India. It would also be contrary to the long established and traditional principles of Britain's Commonwealth and Empire trading policy if the government decided to go in for tariffs and renegotiate the Indian trade agreement.

The question would then arise, if that policy was followed, whether the tariffs would apply to all Commonwealth countries or whether Britain should discriminate in trade against India or Hongkong.

"Is this the time when we would want to take discriminatory action against India or Hongkong?" he asked. Trade with India was really going very well. Last year British exports were £115 million sterling in value and India's exports to Britain were about the same value.

On the question of the import of cheap goods, Mr Low said the house must keep in mind the fact that the United States, to whom Britain was trying manfully to increase her exports, might well take action against her if she pressed a tariff policy too far.

QUOTAS NO SOLUTION
Dealing with suggestions of a quota system, Mr Low said that would be a short term and not a long term solution. Departure from policy of free entry would raise very big issues of Commonwealth policy. It would be difficult to confine action to cloth.

Mr Low said the Opposition's plea for a state-buying commission would lead to special discrimination against India. Dealing with Jute, Mr Low said the government did not wish to continue state trading one moment after it found another method of honouring its undertaking to the jute industry.

As for representations to the Indian government about the level of import duties, Mr Low

said the British government has always considered that a licensing policy on Indian textiles by the government of India would be frustrated by the very high level of their tariff. The government of India did not accept that view.

The Opposition motion was defeated by 288 to 280 votes. The House then carried without a vote a government amendment relating the Labour motion and approving its declared intention to take safeguarding action in cotton imports that might prove essential.

The government had earlier rejected a Labour suggestion of a government buying agency to import cotton yarn and piece-goods.—Reuter.

Queen Of Bermuda

STRIKERS
REJOIN
LINER

New York, Mar. 9.

John Walsh, local director of Furness, Withy & Company, announced tonight that the Queen of Bermuda would resume service from New York to Bermuda on Saturday, March 12.

The ship will sail from Bermuda on Thursday without passengers, arriving in New York on Saturday morning and sailing that afternoon at 3.

Of the 210 crewmen who have participated in the wildcat strike which began last Saturday, 136 have rejoined the ship, he said. Of these 76 were flown to Bermuda on Tuesday morning and an additional 59 are flying to Bermuda tonight.

The men were accepted for re-employment at the request of the British National Union of Seamen which declared that the strike was unauthorized and that it would not support the men since the articles under which they were operating were valid until this December.

REPLACEMENTS
Replacement for the men who did not rejoin for their jobs will be supplied by the Union. They are being flown from England and will arrive in New York on Friday, Mr Walsh said.

"We are glad that so many of the men have returned to the ship because the Company has no desire to work a hardship on them and I am sure that most acted without giving sufficient consideration to the serious step they were taking," said Mr Walsh.

A deadline for applications for re-employment had been passed and those who had not applied would not be considered, he added. "We have had many more applications in London than we can use and, as a result, we start the Queen and provide services on to the usual schedule," said Mr Walsh.—United Press.

Elderly Woman Sues
"Husband"

TO FIGHT BANDITS



Ten hand-picked English paratroopers pictured boarding their aircraft in England on their way to combat the bandits of the Malayan jungles. The troops are obeying an "urgent request" from the Director of Operations in Malaya—General Sir Geoffrey Bourne. They are part of a new drive to combat terrorism.—London Express.

Ex-Showgirl
Found
Unconscious

New York, Mar. 9.
Mrs Janet Armour, 35-year-old former showgirl and heiress to a \$750,000 share of the Armour meat-packing fortune, was found unconscious in her New York hotel apartment today—the victim of an overdose of sleeping pills.

The police said they found two notes beside her body, indicating the probability of a suicide attempt. Mrs Armour returned here from Paris a few weeks ago. Her divorced husband, Hollywood producer Reginald Armour, is now living in London. She was rushed to Bellevue Hospital in serious condition but was said to be responding to treatment.

The police said one of the notes was addressed to her lawyer. The contents of the second note were not revealed by the police.—United Press.

Gherkins In
Bottle Blow Up

Chicago, Mar. 6.
Bottles of pickled gherkins which blew up after fermenting may cost the firm which produced them \$210,000 if it is found in the law courts here that through it was reported here that the Great Lakes Pickle Company of Chicago alleged that bottles of gherkins supplied to them by the Pierpickles Company of Michigan "blasted" 600,000 worth of gherkins, exploding in the law courts. The firm was claiming a \$175,000 damages for loss of reputation.—France-Press.

Highlands
Restoration
Campaign

New York, Mar. 9.
A determined Scottish nobleman today launched a "Scot to help Scot" campaign for \$10,000,000 to shore up the economy and restore the fading population of the storied Highlands of his homeland. Lord Malcolm Douglas-Hamilton, who is devoting himself to the restoration work, said in announcing the drive that he hoped to get the help of 22,000,000 Americans of Scottish ancestry.

"A strong Scotland means a strong America," he said at a press conference in which he outlined a non-charity plan for a permanent revolving fund for small "scholarship loans" to help the small crofter, farmer or little businessman of the Highlands.

The Highland area, which has lost one-third of its population by emigration in the last 100 years, is "Scotland's most serious problem," he said, adding:

"It will probably come as a shock to many to realize that large sections of the beautiful North and West of Scotland are now virtually deserted and indeed in a state of total dereliction. It is an underdeveloped area in the heart of Western civilization—but one which we intend to revive from the grass roots up by private, non-governmental support."

The Highlands area had 18 per cent of the total population of Scotland a century ago. Now it has only six per cent.—United Press.

Has The Answer

Capetown, Mar. 9.
Sir Percy Bullen, former Chief of the British Secret Service, who is now organizing an international disarmament organization, is convinced that he has the answer to the biggest gun-possessing mystery in modern times. Before leaving Capetown, after six weeks in South Africa, he said that he was "satisfied" with the "major part" of the United Nations' plan for the disarmament of the world's nuclear weapons. He said that he was "satisfied" with the "major part" of the United Nations' plan for the disarmament of the world's nuclear weapons. He said that he was "satisfied" with the "major part" of the United Nations' plan for the disarmament of the world's nuclear weapons.—United Press.

AWARDED £4,000
IN DAMAGES

London, Mar. 9.

A 69-year-old woman who sued a 73-year-old man for breach of promise was awarded £4,000 sterling damages with costs in court here today.

The couple, who met at a fun fair, went through a form of marriage on Christmas eve nearly 50 years ago when the man, Mr John Purser, was already married. He claimed that the plaintiff—Mrs Purser, otherwise Miss Fanny Enis—knew this at the time. She denied the allegation.

They lived together for 24 years and she had three children. Then she secured a maintenance order against him 18 months ago and brought the present action after his real wife, whom he had traced to a London hospital, died last July.

Purser denied that he had dug up the certificate of his first marriage to wipe the second Mrs Purser off as a "liability."

John Purser, a £3 a week biscuit-maker when he "married" in 1907, and now a prosperous man said to own 100 houses and have £10,000 in his current account, denied he left the plaintiff when he "fell in love with money."

He had paid her £5 a week since she left him 23 years ago. If he won, the present case, although she should have no legal claims against him, he would see that she did not want for anything.

A ROW

The court was told the plaintiff went to see Mr Purser when she returned from a four-year stay in Canada. There was a row and Mr Purser obtained a copy of his first marriage certificate.

Mrs Purser had taken out a summons for maintenance. Then the real wife was found and a magistrate's order for maintenance could no longer stand. It was then that the breach of promise action was brought.

In court Mrs Purser wore a wren chain ring. The court was told John Purser gave it to her before they were married "to keep the other chaps off."

The judge told the old couple: "Wounded feelings cannot be measured in money. Marriage cannot be reduced to the level of money in that way."

He said the couple were intimate in 1907 and Mrs Purser, then Miss Enis, became pregnant. She told Mr Purser and he said: "Of course, we will get married. They were married in church at a ceremony attended by friends and relatives. "I am quite satisfied the relatives

thought it was a lawful marriage," the judge, Lord Justice Denning, said.—China Mail special.

Space Rocket
May Become
A Reality

Washington, Mar. 9.

Plans by the American Rocket Society to launch an artificial satellite into space may become a reality if the Society's request to the National Science Foundation for Research Funds is met. The Secretary of the Society, Mr Milton Rosen, disclosed here today.

Mr. Rosen, a rocket expert from the US Navy research laboratory, said that it was technically possible to create the satellite.

The satellite the Society had in mind, he continued, was a sphere about five feet in diameter containing scientific apparatus.

It would be launched into space at a speed of five miles a second and would revolve round the earth at the same speed, at an altitude approaching 1,000,000 feet.

Eventually it would slip back into the atmosphere and break up, he said.—France-Press.

NEW YORK BANS
TOY REVOLVERS

New York, Mar. 9.

Toy revolvers have been banned in New York by a ruling of the City Council because they were used by criminals to intimidate victims of 100 "hold-ups" last year, it was reported here today.

In future, only cowboy type guns will be available as toys.—France-Press.

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Linhof

TECHNIKA
PRECISION CAMERA

PICTURES THAT STAND OUT LIKE PLANKS ON

SYLVANIA
FLASHLIGHTS

Has The Answer

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KING'S PRINCESS

At 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m. // At 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m.

FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY



KING'S PRINCESS EMPIRE

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The Circus With All
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Rudolf Schock • Germaine Damar

King of the Circus

Ein Ernst Marischka Film der ERMA-Produktion im Herzog Filmverleih
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

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ROXY: At 2.30, 5.15, BROADWAY: At 2.30, 5.20,
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Starring: Harry BELAFONTE • Dorothy DANDRIDGE
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"TSCHAIKOWSKY'S 4th SYMPHONY" In Technicolor
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Randolph SCOTT • Ruth ROMAN

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Warner Bros. Picture — Color by Technicolor

TO-MORROW "FOREVER FEMALE"

Japanese Reparations
DeadlockPHILIPPINES ASKED
TO ATTEND
TOKYO CONFERENCE

Manila, Mar. 10.

The Philippines Government has received a Japanese verbal note on the deadlocked reparations between the two countries, it was announced here.

In its verbal note, the Japanese Government urged an immediate bilateral conference in Tokyo on a technical level preparatory to formal negotiations at Manila later.

The diplomatic note was delivered at the Foreign Office yesterday by Mr. Toshio Urabe, acting head of the Japanese mission here.

NEGOTIATOR REPLACED

The Philippines Ambassador, Mr. Felipe Neri, the chief negotiator, conferred with Congress leaders on the reparations and disclosed that Japan had agreed, as a gesture of good faith, to replace Mr. Mamoru Nagano, a Japanese industrialist, as Japan's chief negotiator.

Mr. Nagano was the author of the latest Japanese payments offer, involving \$400 million which the Philippines had rejected.

The Philippines have been insisting on a 1,000 million "irreducible" minimum.

Congress leaders expressed confidence in President Mag-saysay and Ambassador Neri in the negotiations with Japan.

Japan's prompt response to the Philippine move for early settlement on reparations was interpreted by a Government spokesman as "vindication" of Mr. Mag-saysay's direct and bold move on Saturday in cancelling the Japanese Premier, urging a satisfactory solution to the reparations problem.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee in conference with Mr. Neri stressed the need for early settlement of the reparations problem. According to Japan's note the conference at technical level in Tokyo "will be of such nature as to examine details of reparations items as desired by the Philippines of Japan as well as their kinds, amounts or quantities, and other necessary specifications."—Reuter.

'Mother' Units
For Jets

Washington, Mar. 9.

Formal of the first unit of jet fighters capable of being launched and recovered in flight by giant bombers was announced by the United States Air Force today.

The unit, the 81st Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, has been formed at Great Falls, Montana, and will be equipped with F-84 Thunderflash jet fighters.

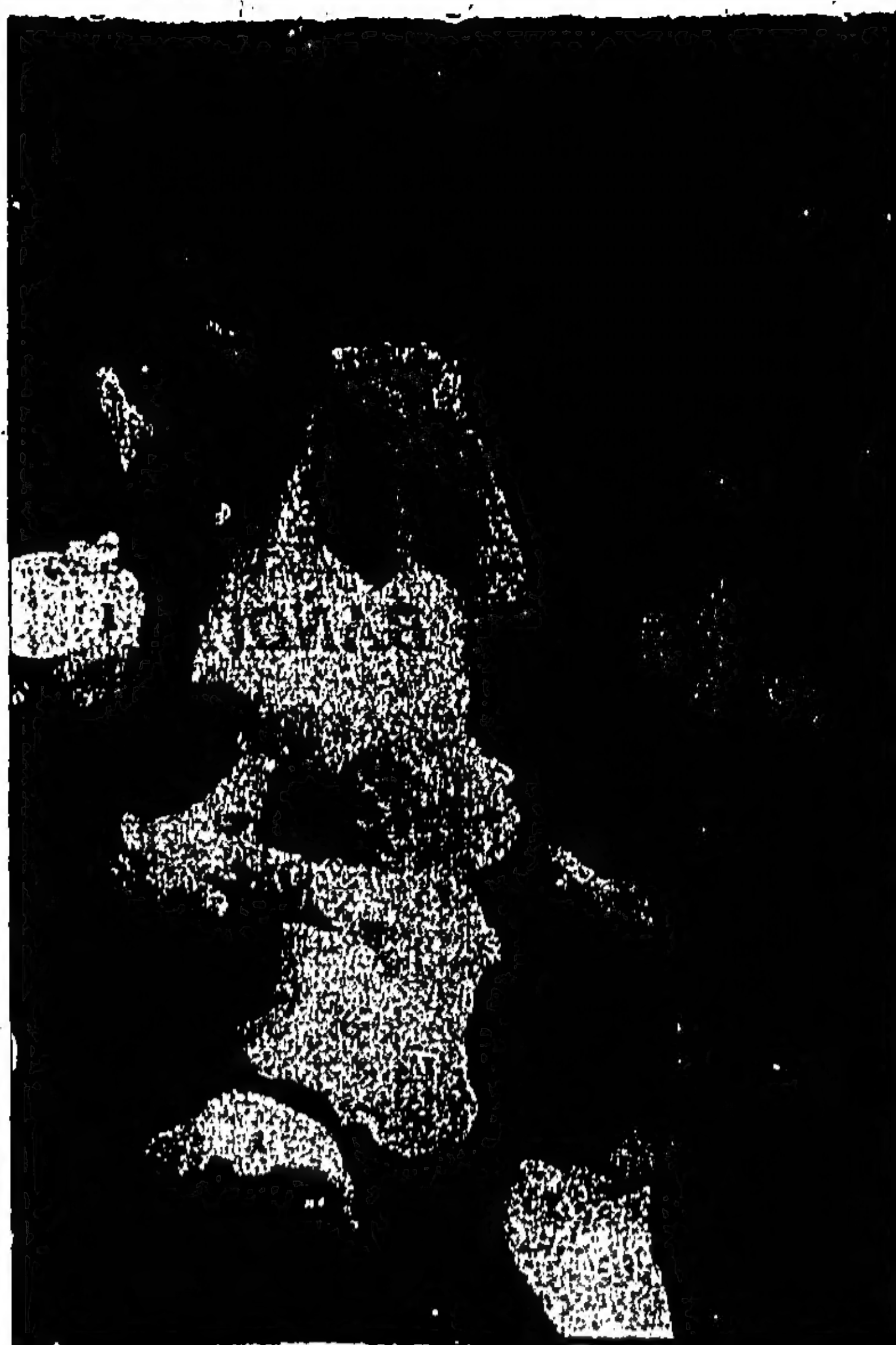
The "mother" aircraft will be inter-continental B-36 bombers based at Fairchild Field, Spokane, Washington.—Reuter.

People Leave
Copenhagen

Copenhagen, Mar. 9.

In 1950 the population of Copenhagen reached 974,900 and the proud inhabitants of the capital thought that the one million mark would be reached in a year or two, but instead people are slowly leaving the area.

In November last it was found that Copenhagen's population numbered only 961,712, a decrease of 13,189. Last year 2,565 left the capital.—Reuter.



Viscount Hambledon leaves the Church of Santa Maria in Domine, just outside Rome, with his lovely bride Donna Maria Carmela Attolico, daughter of former Italian Ambassador to Moscow and Berlin, after their wedding.—Express Photo.

A-CLOUD OVER
ATLANTIC BUT
NO DANGER

Washington, Mar. 9.

The atomic cloud from Monday's big bang in Nevada split three ways, with the "mushroom" top heading across the Atlantic. But there has been no danger to humans, as far as it can be determined.

The biggest explosion in the current spring atomic test series produced one of the most contrary cloud patterns yet. Instead of hanging together, the radioactive cloud was split by crosswinds.

A few seconds after the explosion it looked as if the cloud might drop some radioactive particles on some of the scientific and military observers. But they scrambled out of the way and no actual "fall-out" was reported.

United States meteorologists who trace atomic clouds said that this is what happened to Monday's cloud.

The top or "mushroom" part rose 40,000 feet above the Yucca Flat, got caught in a high westerly wind and took off to the east. Moving across upper Arizona and New Mexico, it stretched out in an extremely thin line and sailed over the South Carolina coast about noon on Tuesday. By now it probably has crossed the Atlantic.

The lowest part of the cloud got involved with a wind going the other way and "drifted back into California." It then veered northward and ran into mixed-up winds that shredded it to pieces.

The middle part of the cloud headed north from the explosion, latched onto light winds going southeast while over Nevada and then hit some eddies tending to tear it apart.

BARELY MEASURABLE
The fragments, their radioactive strength reduced to barely measurable amounts, appeared likely to straggle eastward and may have drifted out over the Atlantic already.

If such atomic clouds run into rain, some of their radioactive particles will be stnt down with the raindrops. There have been occasional reports of such radioactive rain or hail in the past, but always far below a level harmful to humans.

Neither the Atomic Energy Commission nor the Weather Bureau has received any report of fall-out from Monday's mixed-up cloud.—United Press.

India Will Ban
Export Of
Monkeys

New Delhi, Mar. 9.

The Government will shortly ban the export of monkeys which are used mostly for polo research in the United States, it was reported today.

Indians have protested that the monkeys have been cruelly handled in shipping. Mr. Thomas Edward Patterson, the biggest shipper of monkeys, said he now exports 8,000 to 10,000 of them each month. About 95 per cent of them go to the National Foundation for infantile paralysis in New York for use in polo research, he said.—United Press.

MAJESTIC

FINAL TO-DAY

At 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m.



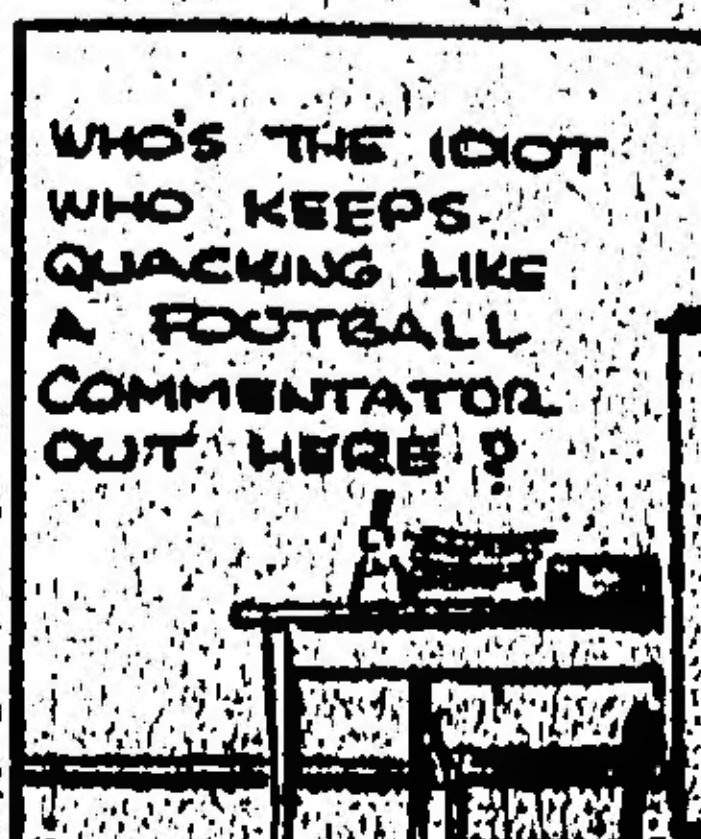
TO-MORROW

20th Century-Fox Presents

"THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS"

In CinemaScope

POP



QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

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NEXT CHANGE ! Tyrone POWER • Maureen O'HARA
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FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY

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FIRST TIME ON PANORAMIC SCREEN



COMMENCING TO-MORROW



EMPIRE

FINAL TODAY
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30
& 9.30 P.M.LI LI-HWA in
"THE LITTLE GIRL NAMED CABBAGE"

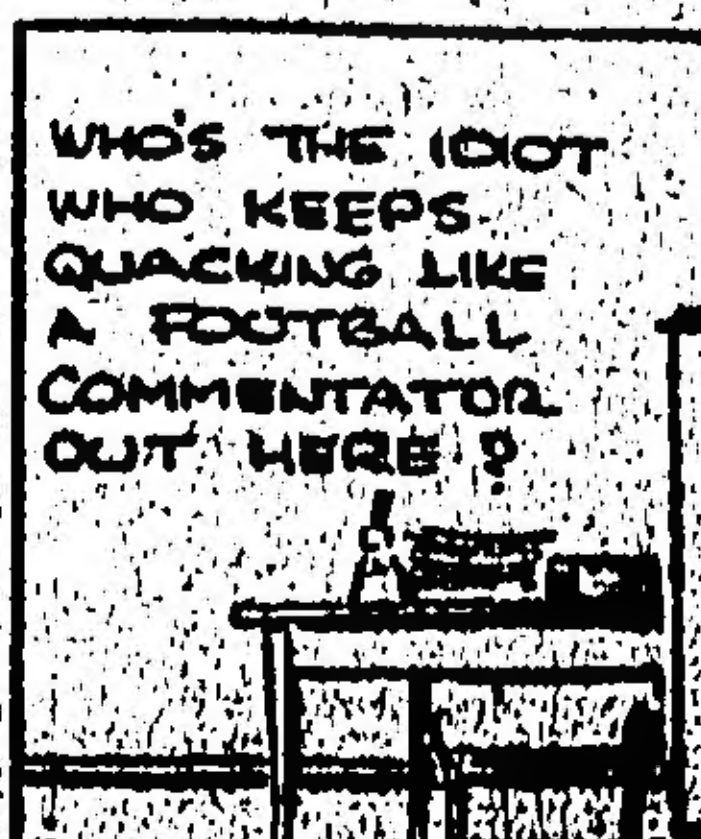
TO-MORROW

GARY COOPER in

"UNCONQUERED"

In Technicolor

Penalty of Ignorance



WORLD DISARMAMENT TALKS

RED AGENTS IN AMERICAN INDUSTRIES

Terrorist Ring Broken

Casablanca, Mar. 9. The police in Oued Zem, a suburb of Casablanca, with the arrest of eight Moroccans, have broken up a terrorist ring that has been operating for many months. It was announced here today.

The police seized a machinegun and more than 120 grenades. It was stated by official sources.

The Moroccan terrorists who have been arrested carried out six attacks during the past few months, the police revealed.—France-Press.

SHAH MAY CALL AT BAGHDAD

Washington, Mar. 9. HIGH diplomatic officials here said today that the Shah of Iran plans a short visit to Iraq but added that this should not be taken as an indication that Iran will adhere to the Turkey-Iraq pact.

They said the Shah suddenly decided a few days ago he would like to visit a famous Shiite religious shrine at Baghdad, Iraq, on his way back to Tehran from Europe.

The Shah is now in Germany. He is scheduled to arrive in Baghdad on Friday, March 11, which is the Muslim Sunday. But reports from Germany said that he has a cold which might delay him. The Shah was planning to return to Tehran on March 12.

Officials here believe that Iran is not yet ready to join the pact, but that it is likely to do so later when it thinks the time is ripe.

They also said that Britain has informed the United States that it wants to join the Turkey-Iraq pact as this would be the best way of revising her military treaty with Iraq which is due to be done this spring.

They understood that Turkish officials have expressed surprise that the French Ambassador here recently visited the State Department, allegedly to say that France felt the pact would make French relations with Syria more difficult, especially as Iraq had never officially renounced the "Greater Syria" plan. That plan is said to comprise Iraq, Syria and Transjordan.

They said the Turkish viewpoint is that any nation that adheres to the Turkey-Iraq pact automatically has its territorial integrity fully guaranteed.—United Press.

Nothing New In Latest Russian Plan STILL WANT VETO IN SECURITY COUNCIL

London, Mar. 9.

The Soviet scheme for world disarmament published in Pravda today showed virtually no change on previous Russian proposals already rejected by the West, diplomatic sources here said.

Observers assumed the Russian plan represented the main proposals made by Mr. Andrei Gromyko, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, at the current London five-power disarmament conference.

The conference held a 90-minute session today and will continue its secret discussions on Friday.

The sources said that in several respects the proposals as outlined in Pravda fell far short of the "tamper proof" international supervisory system the West wants to be in effective force before it agrees to ban nuclear weapons.

SIMULTANEOUS

The Soviet proposal that such a ban should be simultaneous with the establishment of an international control organ shows that Russia's attitude on this point has not changed since last year's abortive disarmament talks here.

The West insists that the control organ must be established and functioning before nuclear weapons are prohibited.

Another capital point at issue was whether any of the Great Powers should be allowed to veto sanctions being applied in any branch of a world disarmament convention.

Observers noted that the Pravda proposals placed the question of sanctions within the scope of the United Nations Security Council, where the five permanent members, including Russia, have veto rights.

Today's meeting of the United Nations Disarmament Commission sub-committee was presided over by Mr. Anthony Nutting, Minister of State at the British Foreign Office.

The countries represented are Britain, France, the United States, Canada and Russia.—Reuter.

Skyscrapers Branded 'Uneconomical'

Moscow, Mar. 9.

Plans to build a grandiose 46-storey skyscraper overshadowing the Kremlin have been rejected in favour of a utilitarian ten-storey block of Government offices.

The decision was disclosed today by Mr. Alexander Vlasov, chief of Moscow City Council's architecture and planning section.

The original skyscraper plan, which was believed to have been intended by Stalin to stand behind Red Square as a new administrative centre.

Construction had reached about six storeys when Stalin died. Mr. Vlasov told correspondents the metal framework already built would be demolished and new construction started in the spring.

Mr. Vlasov said no more skyscrapers would be built beyond the eight already in existence or under construction. Tallest of these is the 32-floor University building.

Skyscrapers were strongly criticised as uneconomical by Mr. N. S. Khrushchev, First Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party in a speech last December.—Reuter.

Malaya Not Suppressing Chinese Culture

London, Mar. 9.

Mr. Alan Lennox Boyd, the Colonial Secretary, said today that Communist assertions that the Government of Malaya was trying to suppress Chinese culture in Chinese schools in Malaya were "absolutely untrue."

Mr. Gilbert Longden, a Conservative, had asked in the House of Commons whether the Minister knew that the Malayan Communist Party was trying to indoctrinate students in schools in the Federation with Communist ideas.

Mr. Lennox Boyd replied: "Yes, Sir. The Government of the Federation has warned the managers and teachers of the schools and the parents of the students about the nature of the Communist Party activities."

Mr. Longden: "Are you aware that one of the Communist tactics is to accuse the Federation Government of seeking to suppress Chinese culture in Chinese schools. Is there any truth in this?"

Mr. Lennox Boyd: "I am aware of this charge which is absolutely untrue. While we are desirous of building up a united Malayan nation, we have no wish to break Chinese cultural links which unite the Chinese all over the world."

Mr. Stan Aubrey (Labour) asked what was being done to prove conclusively to the Malayan people that the democratic system was far better than the Communist system?

Mr. Lennox Boyd: "We do not have the power to do what we say, we say."

The Colonial Secretary said he was well aware of the need for stressing the free way of life. He thought the forthright statement at both sessions would be of great help to the people of Malaya.

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GERMAN DEBUTANTES AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE



A Bolt Was Loose AND M. LORET TURNED WHITE

Paris, Mar. 9.

"Attention... attention," said a French radio-speaker in anxious tones. "This is a personal message for M. Jacques Loret, or for anyone who can contact him immediately."

M. Loret, who was sipping good brandy at his cousin's house in Bethune (northern France), after a big lunch, paid little attention to the radio.

For the first time since before the war, a party of German debutantes were presented to the Queen at Buckingham Palace, London. They are pictured with the German Ambassador, leaving the German Embassy, London, on their way to the Palace. They are: Therese Princess Hohenlohe-Waldenburg; Elizabeth Gräfin Zedwitz; Dr. Hans Schlange-Schöningen and his wife; Countess Mechthild Zepplin, a descendant of the famous Count Zepplin; and Barbara Maria Nordhoff.—Express Photo.

Successful Rain Making Experiments In Syria

Damascus, Mar. 9.

Syria, for the first time in her history, is experimenting with making artificial rain.

A large Syrian estate owner, Mr. Marwan Bashi, has signed a contract with an American company to make rain over his large estates in northern Syria.

A team of experts under Mr. James Bright, of Denver, Colorado, is at work on a rectangular area 100 kilometres long by 50 kilometres wide (60 miles by 30 miles).

They have installed fifteen machines for shooting chemicals into the sky at fixed points and have five more mounted on jeeps. These machines spray the clouds with chemicals which cause rain to fall.

Wind direction and cloud movement as well as other useful data are supplied to the field operators by the meteorological station at Beirut, which is run by Dutch experts.

FIRST TESTS

The first tests have proved successful. Under the terms of the contract signed with the American company, its personnel are to train Syrians to operate the machines and cause rain to fall.

After completing a course of field work the Syrian trainees will go to the United States to join the company for one year's theoretical study.

The team of experts will continue to work in Syria until April 1, when they will suspend operations until September, the beginning of the winter season.

The experiment is of particular significance to Syria because many parts of the country suffer from a shortage of rainfall. The Syrian Government, therefore, may sign a contract with the company if the present operations are a success.—China Mail Special.

\$100 Million For South Vietnam

Washington, Mar. 9.

The United States has set aside \$100,000,000 in economic and technical aid for South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1955, it was announced here today.

The sum includes \$45,000,000 for "Operation Exodus," the program of evacuation and rehabilitation of more than 500,000 refugees from North Vietnam, the Foreign Operations Administration said.

The remaining \$55,000,000 will be used to reinforce the economies of the Associated States of Indo-China.—France-Press.

Menzies In Montreal

Montreal, Mar. 9.

Australian Premier, Mr. Robert Menzies, landed today in Montreal en route to Ottawa, as part of a five-day tour of Canada.

He is scheduled to go next week to Washington where he will examine the problem of Pacific Ocean shipping, and will then visit the President of the United States, Mr. Dwight D. Eisenhower, and the Vice-President, Mr. Richard M. Nixon.

FATHER MEETS HIS SON FOR THE FIRST TIME

Paris, Mar. 9.

When the trans-Atlantic liner Queen Mary, arrived at Cherbourg, a man could be seen on the pier, keenly looking at all the passengers disembarking and comparing their features to a picture that he was holding in his hand.

In 1919, he went to France and found work as a miner. One day, he met a Polish woman, who told him that Obota was still very much alive and living in Detroit, where he was the prosperous owner of a steel girder factory.

He remained alone, living in Poland with relatives until after the 1914 war.

The father did not write and father thought he was dead. In 1919, he went to France and found work as a miner. One day, he met a Polish woman, who told him that Obota was still very much alive and living in Detroit, where he was the prosperous owner of a steel girder factory.

MORE HISSES ON PAYROLL

Washington, Mar. 9.

Responsible individuals here will concede today that Communist agents more likely than not are employed on sensitive Government projects and that one or more Alger Hisses doubtless remain on the public payroll.

It is reasonable to believe that several highly placed Communist agents — at or near the Hiss level — are operating actively within the Government structure.

Belief that Government still is seriously penetrated by Communist spies is based on deduction drawn from known facts. These include:

1. Positive evidence that the Communists have not eased off on their efforts to infiltrate the Government, labour unions, key industries and vital institutions in general.
2. The vigorous and frequently successful Communist propaganda against Government security and loyalty procedures.

TOP OBJECTIVE

A top Communist objective now and for some time past has been to compel secret informers to confront the accused when Government security or loyalty machinery begins to function.

Some, perhaps many, of the loyalty accusations against Government employees have come from FBI plants within the Communist Party. They are men and women who spy on the Communists for the United States Government.

Not only Communists demand that these accusations be compelled to identify themselves and confront the accused. A great many citizens of the United States condemn the present practice of secrecy and it is possible that the loyalty and security procedures including the question of confrontation, may be made a major political issue in next year's presidential election.

Granting the hazards to personal liberty of permitting an accuser to hide his name and face, the other side of the story is that United States counter-intelligence in this country against Communism would be crippled badly if the accusers were unnamed.

SUB-COMMITTEE

State Department adviser Wilbur Brucker today told a US Senate sub-committee that potential spies and saboteurs are still employed in industries which would be essential in the event of mobilisation.

He urged Congress to plug up the holes in America's internal security laws and particularly to forbid employment of subversive persons in factories which would contribute to the military effort, if it was broken out.—United Press & France-Press.

LOVE SPELLS LOYALTY

Frankfurt, Mar. 9.

Colonel Robert S. Hall, chaplain of the United States Fifth Corps, proposes a minor spelling reform — spell "love" as "loyalty" — in a list of commandments for happy marriages.

Col. Hall, of Greenfield, Massachusetts, gave advice to both husbands and wives.

For husbands — curb your temper, remember your wife's birthday and your anniversary and celebrate; don't take yourself too seriously; budget your money with your wife's help.

For wives — do not make a maid of your husband; do not be a slave to him either; give careful thought to neatness and cleanliness without seeming gaudy; painted, or otherwise artificial; if you must quarrel make it snappy and forget it.—China Mail Special.

PRISON HAS APPEAL—FOR SOME

Paris, Mar. 9.

A 31-year-old clerk here who likes prison life finally got himself arrested and locked up by police today—but it took a lot of imagination to turn the trick.

The police said the clerk, whom they identified as Pierre Saison, managed to earn himself three short prison terms in the past by making minor mis-calculations in his book-keeping chores.

They said Saison got homesick for prison life again today and walked into a well known restaurant here where he ordered the biggest meal in the house, complete with oysters and expensive wines and liquors and then told the amazed restaurant-keeper to arrest him for he was flat broke.

The restaurant-keeper refused to call the police but Saison finally got back into prison by going to a nearby police station and threatening to eat three of change throughout the city if police did not arrest him.

That did it — the police charged the happy clerk with petty theft and locked him up.—France-Press.

Bulgarian Approves Afro-Asian Conference

Moscow, Mar. 9.

Soviet Premier, Marshal Nikolai Bulganin today told Maung Ohn, Burmese Ambassador to the USSR, that he felt the future Afro-Asian Conference would be extremely important and useful. It was learned from an authoritative source here.

During an hour-long visit by the Ambassador to the Kremlin, Marshal Bulganin said that he hoped the conference would be a success since its aims were peace, friendship and mutual understanding, and that it would contribute to the general development of the vast and populous area of the world.

Marshal Bulganin emphasised the Soviet Union's friendly feelings towards Burma stating that if Burma should ask for technical aid the Soviet Union would be happy to give it.

The new Soviet Chief of State asked Maung Ohn to send a personal message of greeting to Premier U Nu including wishes "for success in his work toward increasing international tension and in his efforts for peace, friendship and mutual understanding between peoples."—France-Press.

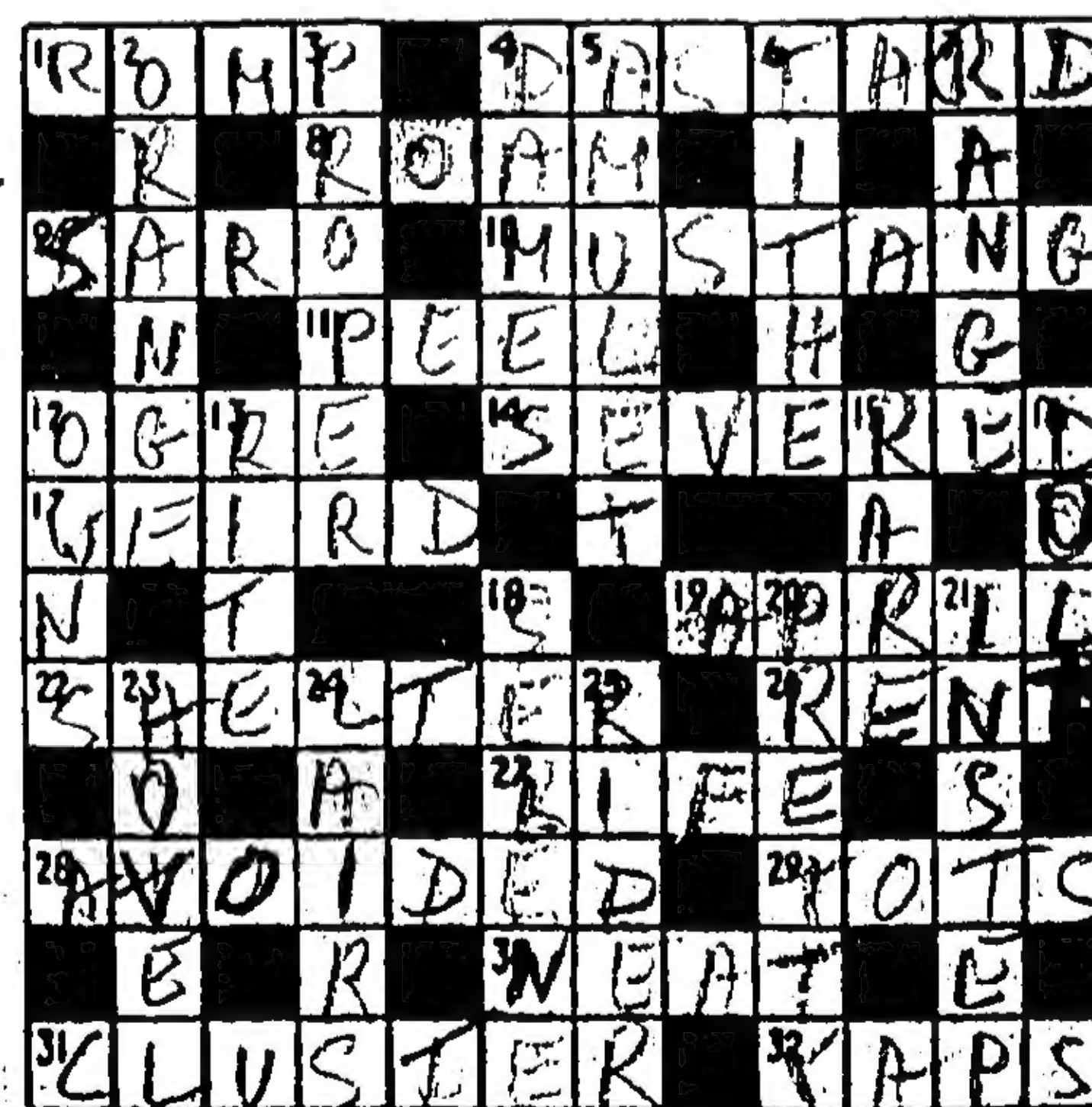
Russia Offers Export Cars At HK\$63,000

Moscow, Mar. 9.

The Soviet Union is now offering to export its six-cylinder "Zim" automobiles built in the Moscow factories, an advertisement in the Vneshe-Torgovaya (Foreign Commerce), organ of the Soviet Foreign Trade Ministry, announced today.

The advertisement pointed out that Russian cars are "luxurious" comfortable models class over 1000 cc., 90 h.p. tested for overseas transportation. Although the export price was not mentioned, the same "Zim" model in the Moscow market is 45,000 rubles (HK\$100,000).—France-Press.

A British Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS
- 1 Frolic (4).
 - 2 Coward (7).
 - 3 Wander (4).
 - 4 Pudding ingredient (4).
 - 5 Wild horse (7).
 - 6 Pave (4).
 - 7 Monster (4).
 - 8 Cut apart (7).
 - 9 Unhappy (5).
 - 10 Month (5).
 - 11 Projection (7).
 - 12 Torn (4).
 - 13 Frolic (4).
 - 14 Small children (4).
 - 15 Tidy (4).
 - 16 Bunch (7).
 - 17 Bark shrilly (4).
- DOWN
- 1 Fruit (6).
 - 2 Right (6).
 - 3 Great ladies (6).
 - 4 Charm (6).
 - 5 Tax (5).
 - 6 Extent (5).
 - 7 Possesses (4).
 - 8 Ceremony (4).
 - 9 Uncommon (4).
 - 10 Blockhead (4).
 - 11 Unruffled (6).
 - 12 Easy on the eye (6).
 - 13 Part of the foot (6).
 - 14 Mean dwelling (5).
 - 15 Dens (5).
 - 16 Additional clause (5).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD.—Across: 1 Scribe, 5 Roads, 8 Amnes, 9 Export, 10 Voter, 11 Beret, 12 Trip, 13 Hike, 14 Detect, 15 Eroded, 16 Laden, 17 Orate, 18 Sake, 19 Pique, 20 Mailed, 21 Seem, 22 Meets, 23 Shades, 24 Dew, 25 Spectra, 26 Repaired, 27 Barb, 28 Polished, 29 Savored, 30 Exotic, 31 Frock, 32 Starbed, 33 Sublime, 34 Donates, 35 Teaseth, 36 Bank, 37 Agila, 38 Pouch.

'Automation' Scares The Union Boss

O New York, Tuesday. On our way back to New York we landed in Iceland to refuel. The airliner, a Strato-cruiser called the Mayflower, rolled smoothly on the snow-covered ground, but Iceland, or, rather, the airfield at Keflavik, was much warmer than I expected.

I walked across the tarmac to the air terminal without a coat. The place, at around 11 at night, reminded me rather of Kansas City.

It blazed with fluorescent lights, and there were crowds lined up at the counters buying presents and souvenirs or queuing up for coffee, hamburgers, and hot-dogs.

I bought a little fur purse and put down £3, but an American next to me said: "I don't think they take English money in Iceland." They do. The shop assistant was pleased to accept my offered sterling.

Later he handed me a booklet entitled "Facts about Iceland," by a man called Olafur Hansson, and said: "We get a lot of tourists here, but you should visit the capital, Reykjavik—it is a magnificent town." I said I would like to, but I was hurrying back to New York. What I saw of Iceland, of course, was the merest glimpse, and I am not saying that it is Florida, but the people are polite, cultured, gentle in manner, and the service at the terminal was excellent.

No alcoholic drinks were served, not even beer. There was prohibition in Iceland for a period of years, but the law was annulled in 1935 and the sale of spirits legalised.

I'll be back

MR HANSSON'S booklet informed me: "There is, however, no sale of beer with any real alcoholic content. Very few hotels and restaurants have the right to sell alcoholic drinks."

The booklet was full of information such as: "There are no railways in Iceland... it seems unlikely now that any railway will ever be laid down in Iceland."

And: "Rivers in Iceland are innumerable, though none is navigable because the current is so fierce."

I hope to spend a little more time in Iceland in the future. I have found New York very cold—in fact, a great deal colder than Iceland. The temperature has been close to zero; there have been ice- and snowstorms.

DON IDDON'S DIARY

A tremendous row is going on here over "automation"—which means the mechanisation of factories and offices.

Mr Walter Reuther, the 47-year-old president of the world's biggest union, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, says: "The time is coming when entire plants, offices, or departments in much of industry will be operated by electronic-controlled mechanisms. Automation would cause mass unemployment, and the Administration is doing nothing about it."

Big news now

REUTHER'S name is making big news in America. He has been called "Rampageous Reuther," "Destiny's Darling," "The labour leader with his eye on the White House."

Reuther has survived assassination attempts and still has a scared and stiff right arm from a shotgun blast ten years ago. He is an aging young man in a hurry, known as a "one-man labour brains trust."

When in his teens he said he had three ambitions: One was to become president of the United Automobile Workers, the second to become president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and the third to become U.S. President.

Reuther has accomplished his first two ambitions and believes he is well on his way towards the third.

He is a tough, plump-faced man who, other than his smoking, has carefully manicured hands and indulges in pungent language, particularly when negotiating with motor car firms for more money—which is often.

Talk cascades from him. He is terse and incisive, highly strung, and aesthetic in his personal habits.

Reuther is not modest. In fact, with his full approval his aides distribute hand-outs which say: "The popular strength and appeal of Walter Reuther are a mystery. He possesses both the traditional virtues of trade unionists and newer, rarer qualities fitting him to champion Labour's cause in the turbulent atomic age."

In opposition

ONCE when a friend blurted out: "Walter, you are a genius," Reuther replied: "I won't deny it."

He is now steering towards a new union federation under which the mammoth C.I.O. and giant American Federation of Labour would merge.

Who would be the head? Why, Walter Reuther.

Reuther says he is certain to win, but other unions, such as the Transport Workers, which are a branch of the C.I.O., are fighting the Reuther plan.

Meanwhile, the extraordinary man from West Virginia, who made Detroit his castle, is firing his guns at automation.

The voice of big business, through the throat of Benjamin Fairless, chairman of United States Steel, has replied to Reuther "with restraint."

He says the union leader is indulging in "vicious propaganda and miserable fraud and is just plain silly." It should be an interesting battle.

I have not heard much war talk since I returned. Most publications are sprouting with articles entitled "Why China will not fight the U.S." and many experts are saying that they were right all along about the downfall of Malenkov and about Bulganin and Krushchev taking over.

The average American finds the Kremlin complications hard to grasp, but is not at all happy about British Labour politicians' statements on Red China. I estimate that Mr Clement Attlee is the most unpopular Englishman among Americans today. He has succeeded Aneurin Bevan, whose recent statements have not been publicised much here.

In filmland

OUT in Hollywood the aging matrons Louella Parsons and Hedda Hopper, newspaper columnists extraordinary, have more power than many studio chiefs and in Washington Mrs Overa, Culp Hobby is rapidly becoming one of the most influential members of the Eisenhower Cabinet.

Mrs Hobby was another lady who married the boss, William Hobby, ex-Governor of Texas and owner of the Houston Post. She is a handsome, ultra-confident woman who has pursued success, wealth, and fame relentlessly.

Today as Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, she controls 37,000 Government workers and supervises the spending of \$4,000,000,000 annually.

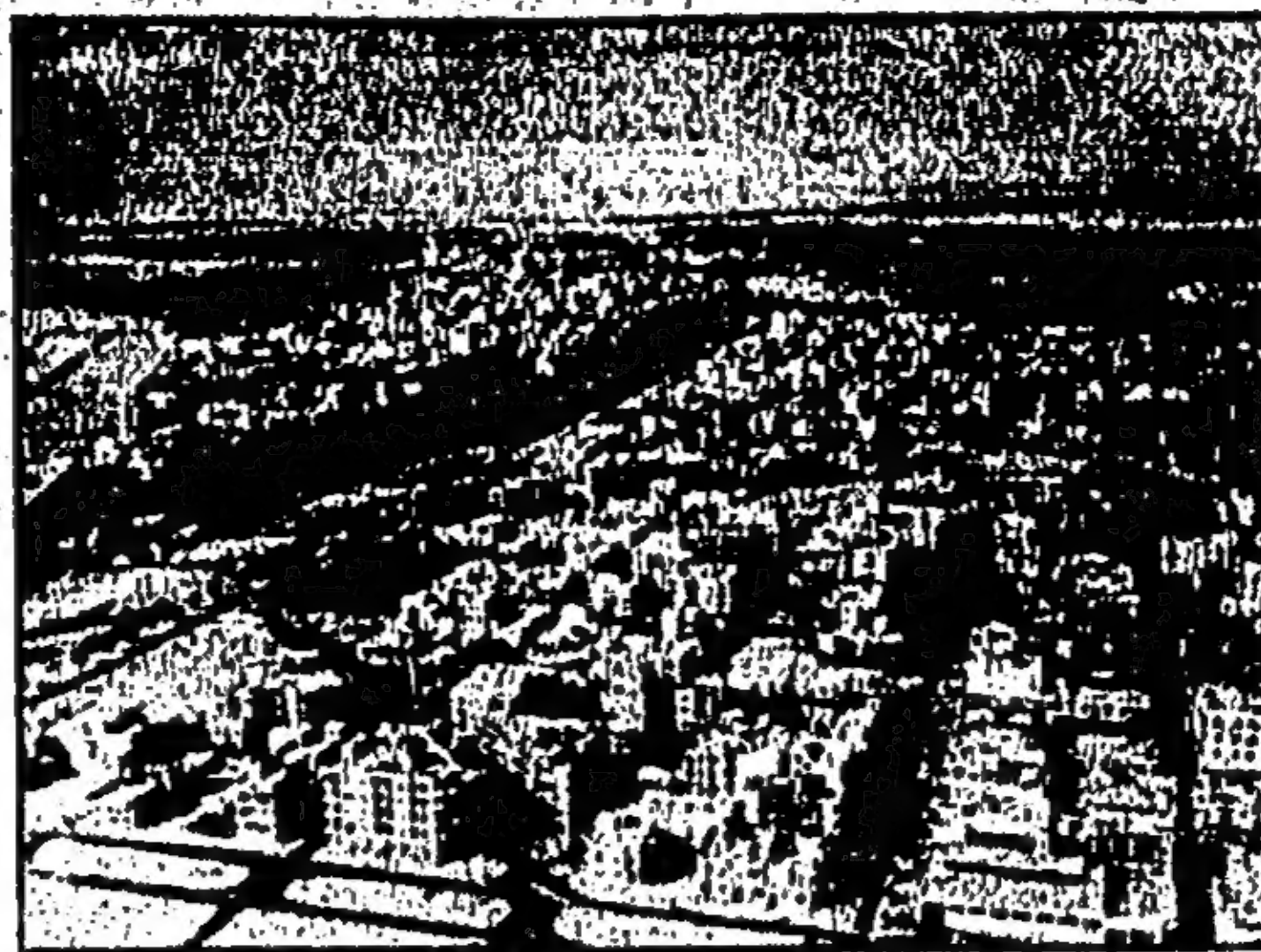
Show talk

THE new Broadway musical "Silk Stockings" is handsome, tuneful and well acted. Don Ameche, after the lean years, has made a great comeback and proved he can do more than invent the telephone.

The Old Vic will tour the U.S. and Canada next spring. It will be ten years since its last visit and triumph here when Laurence Olivier and Ralph Richardson headed the cast.

Dobbie Reynolds and her mother will accompany Eddie Fisher to his Palladium engagement this month. Miss Reynolds and the crooner will be married on June 17.

THE TOWN OF ISMAILIA



After 70 years, the British are withdrawing from the Suez Canal Zone. Across the Nile, another British evacuation is under way in the Sudan. Harold Guard visits Cairo, Ismailia and Khartoum to report these milestones in the history of Europe's relations with the Middle East. This is the eighth article in the series, "Ferment In The Middle East."

side, had the hospital erected to commemorate the event.

Miles ahead we passed Abi Sour, the vast administrative centre of the Royal Air Force in the Middle East. It will be the last of the British installations handed over to Egypt under the treaty.

Further on is the troop area at Tel El Kebir, where British soldiers are gaily chalking up the slogan "Out by Christmas."

packed into this area are estimated at a value of US\$1,750,000,000—twice the value of the British Petroleum Company's installation at Abadan, which was also a victim of the Middle East's growing nationalism.

In one depot alone which we examined, there were 140,000 tons of stores. This tonnage can be multiplied many hundreds of times to compute the property involved in operational bases, administrative installations and transport depots.

Suez Water Canal have made possible a scattering of fresh green lawns.

Another break in the desert drabness is provided by the neat rows of white crosses in nearby cemeteries, in memory of men who gave their lives building and guarding the Zone. These will remain when other evidence of Britain's role here has disappeared.

Whereas in Egypt we found everyone ready to accept the results of treaty, it was a different story in Khartoum, where the change-over from the joint Anglo-Egyptian Condominium to Sudanese self-government is very much in evidence.

Many people there, Sudanese as well as British, believe the transition is being carried out much too quickly.

The British agreement with Egypt to cut loose Sudan and its million square miles of territory after a half century of "foreign" rule is just beginning to sink in. Word travels slowly enough, and appreciation of the step even more slowly, among the Sudanese villagers.

Must Choose

Within three years from the time the agreement was signed last February, the Sudanese must choose between complete independence as a sovereign state, union with Egypt, or membership in the British Commonwealth.

At the moment, the betting is on complete independence. But this prediction may not take sufficiently into account the possible effect of Egypt's propaganda campaign for union.

Already, Egyptian officials are claiming openly that they regard the Sudan as part of Egypt. The Egyptian Vice-Consul at Cyprus told me he was under orders to issue Egyptian entry visas for travel to Khartoum.

Only 330,000 of Sudan's 8,750,000 population can read and write. The Sudanese are not Egyptian racially or culturally—although many Egyptians, including ex-President Mohammed Naguib, have Sudanese blood. The people in the north speak Arabized, Arabic-speaking Moslem, while those in the south are negroid pagans speaking African tribal dialects.

Too Quickly

The southerners wear white cotton turbans and loose white flowing robes. The southerners often wear nothing but a white-tinted smile.

The southerners live in square, flat-roofed huts built with multi-coloured sunbaked bricks. The southerners have no fixed homes and live primitive lives, with tribal wars as an occasional diversion.

These are the ordinary people who are being besieged by political propagandists—the Sudanese independence or the Egyptians preaching "unity of the Nile valley."

At Khartoum airport, the visitor encounters the first cross-section of a polyglot community whose administrative officials are trying to take over from British administration.

The system is the same, the uniforms are the same, but routine does not quite work.

"We are moving too quickly," an elderly Sudanese official told me. "It's the same in many government departments. And we Sudanese feel it as well. We are used to the old efficiency."

War Danger

The British officials still here, on the other hand, applaud the serious effort that many Sudanese are making to cope with the situation. They pointed, for example, to the commendable progress being made on the technical side by Sudan's civil aviation department in operating one of Africa's largest jet airfields.

This article underlines the fact that Sudan's strategic importance is not being overlooked by Western defence planners. Another indication is a new military road being built from Khartoum to connect with a similar highway from French Equatorial Africa.

"You haven't heard the last of Sudan," a Sudanese army government official told me. "Our problems now are too much propaganda talk and not enough action." He said that the Sudanese army was now being retrained by the British and French.

OTHER PROBLEMS ON THE ROAD BACK

By Harold Guard

As well as any book, the motor road from Cairo to Ismailia tells travellers the full story of Anglo-Egyptian relations from the time Lord Kitchener's armies first occupied the Suez Canal Zone.

Over its 85 dusty miles, there are historic book-marks of British-made history in Egypt, from the reign of the Mahdi to the military coup which deposed Farouk and put the Revolutionary Council headed by Abdel Gamal Nasser in power.

As yet, the traffic on this road is one-way as far as British troops are concerned. Ismailia and Cairo both are "out of bounds" for them. If and when they are permitted their weekend leave again, they can expect a hearty welcome from most Egyptians.

The ban on troop leave was imposed by GHQ largely because of the Moslem Brotherhood, which fomented "incidents" to undermine public support of Nasser's negotiations with the British. Although the Brotherhood is less active as a result of raids on its cells and imprisonment of its leaders, the authorities are taking no chances.

Real Egypt

There is little evidence of anti-British feeling in Cairo now. Most of the emotions whipped up in anti-British demonstrations during the negotiations disappeared in the demonstrations which followed the treaty signing on October 19.

"Colonel Nasser didn't want the British as occupiers, but he wants them

as friends," the average Egyptian will tell you.

Leaving Cairo at dawn, a motorist might well be driving through any London or New York suburb. Soon you leave the modern city behind and enter the real Egypt—great rolling sand dunes fringed by broad strips of fertile land. The road runs parallel to the Sweet Water Canal built by the French to divert the Nile waters to the site of the canal.

The rural outskirts are alive with shadowy figures of the fellahs going to their fields. They are wrapped in drab wool burnouses to keep out the chill morning air. The desert mist soon disappears as the copper coloured sun rises, and from every minaret a Muzzein calls the faithful to the day's first prayers.

Broken Leg

The first landmark on the highway is pleasuring King Farouk's great palace, with the mighty wall built by fellahs at a cost of £80,000.

The magnificence of the palace intensified the contrast of our first glimpse of a rural village, a compound of crude mud huts lining the banks of the Sweet Water Canal. Hanging in the morning air is the stench of a new chemical fertiliser, evidence of Nasser's ambitious plans to expand Egypt's agricultural production.

The road rolls past a hospital at Kassassin, marking the spot where Farouk, on a mad motor drive in 1944, collided with a British army truck. The King sustained a broken leg, and after receiving first aid at the road-

hiding for surplus vehicles and equipment stored in the Tel El Kebir reservation.

Arriving at Ismailia, we caught our first glimpse of the Suez Canal—the world's most expensive man-made waterway, which more than once has threatened to run red with British and Egyptian blood.

There was ample evidence in Ismailia that the British withdrawal operation was gaining momentum, and a flight over the Zone confirmed this.

Great ordnance depots are being emptied. Huge warehouses of rubber, tyres, clothing, batteries and motor spares are being checked to determine just how much will be carried away and how much will be left with the Egyptian army and air force.

The various bases themselves are being catalogued under three headings—those to be maintained temporarily by British forces, those to be closed and those the Egyptians will maintain and control.

In the workshops, Egyptian workers are being trained by British technicians to prepare them for the takeover.

The Zone flanks the Canal itself for 100 miles between Port Said in the north and Suez in the south. Its greatest width is about 18 miles, and the military and air installations

One RAF transport depot, for example, has grown into one of the world's largest transport centres, handling over 25,000 passengers and nearly a million tons of freight a month.

The base, viewed in perspective, reflects 50 years of defence planning and the needs of two world wars. Nobody in authority either here or in Cairo is prepared to say it can be effectively handed over in 20 months.

Apart from the movement of 80,000 troops, that evacuation of the hundreds of thousands of tons of stores would tie up the entire British merchant navy for two years or more, some officers say.

The treaty provides that the British withdrawal must be completed by May 19, 1956—20 months from the date of the signing. However, an annex to the treaty provides that 84 per cent of the troop strength will be withdrawn within one year, or by October 10, 1955.

From the air, the Zone ranks high as one of the world's least glamorous spots. It is an endless repetition of khaki tents and buildings swallowed up by the brown sands.

There is a little more colour on the ground, particularly from gun turrets imported from Australia to break the desert winds and the military and air installations

An Egyptian aircraft worker studies under a British NCO. (Photos by Charles Dawson).



Tiger

THE GOLD MEDAL Championship BEER



Distributors: A.S. WATSON & CO. LTD. Tel 38720



MUM IS SO CLEVER WITH THE NEEDLE

Massage And Embrocations

SOAPY WATER
IS GOOD FOR
PLANTS;
USE BATH SURPLUS
IN THE
GARDEN.

WATER IS PRECIOUS

Hongkong Still Needs A 50-Metre Swimming Pool

There has since been, however, what seemed like a discordant note. Some leaders in Hongkong who since desire it to see an improvement in local facilities must have been much disturbed by an observation made when our Annual Meeting was introduced. It is difficult to evaluate the statement apparently made in passing, but even if it may, it is indicative of a trend of thought, then we must view it with grave concern. We would fall in our duty to urge we not to examine more closely the suggestion that the importance of providing recreational facilities could well be supported by financial considerations derived from a single experience.

A COMIC ICE SHOW-TURN OR A FOOTBALL MATCH? —FARCICAL CONDITIONS

Div. 1: University v. Optimists;
Sacro v. Army "North"; SOC v
AR: Army "South" v KOC; Soc-
ious v Police.
Fighting
"Iced of the Day" Race.
Fencing
Foll League; Chinese Black v RAR
Little Bai Wan (Wah Yan College
newoon).
Hacking
Eighth Race Meeting Happy
ruler.

The man behind the power behind these flats is Brian Harper, Amateur Champion Heavyweight Boxer, who is turning professional. He has his first fight in the "commercial class" at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on March 22 against an opponent yet to be named. He will box under the name Brian London, a name that recalls the great battles of his father, Jack London, former British Heavyweight Champion. Experts tip him as a likely successor to Don Cockell, the present Champion. —Reuterphoto.

“World Record” Breakers From The Ladies’ Tees Should Pay LGU A Fee

[illegible]

Final Acceptors For The Grand National

(10/9), *Copp* (10/8), *Mas Tu Vu*
 (10/7), *Witty and Chisputown* (10/8)
Formond and Mr Chispendale (10/4)
Red Rubbe, Whispering Steel and No
Response (all 10/3), *Portarlington*
and Picking (10/2), *Dark Stranger*
and Pious Barn (10/1), *Munster Kinn*
II, Another Rake, Old Glory, Uncle
Barney, Wild Wisdom, Ontray, Sun
Clasp, Gentle Moys, Steel Look, A
Wedding, Blue Envy, Roman Fire
Moogls and Caveat (all 10 stone)—
Leugr.

A. ROMARY'S WHEATEN BISCUITS

Sole Agents:
Rutro & Mathias Ltd

THE GAMBOLS

THAT'S A NICE DIARY, DEAR.

A TRAVELER GAVE IT TO ME.

ONE LIKE THAT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL TO ME.

I COULD JOT DOWN ALL MY THOUGHTS EACH DAY.

THIS ONE WOULD BE TOO GOOD FOR ALL YOUR THOUGHTS, DEAR.

Barrie Appleby

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PUBLISHED DAILY
(AFTERNOON)

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Lighter at Deep Water Bay
Beach on Saturday last March 5.
Apply Secretary, S. C. M. Post,
1st Floor.

WANTED KNOWN

DR. SCHOLL'S Foot Comfort Service.
Telephone House (Mezzanine)
Hongkong provides the expert atten-
tion your feet deserve. — by London-
qualified Chiropodist.

MUSICAL

LISTEN to LP set Roland Hayes in
recital of songs from 1930s to
Negro Spirituals, a listening ex-
perience which attests the
most exciting talents of the art
song performer from D. E. Saxe, A.A.
Foster Road, room 1, 2nd
floor, telephone 3010.

STAMPS

STAMP ALBUMS — "Collection
Builder" series. New stock now
available. \$3 from South China
Morning Post Ltd., Wyndham
Street and Sallybury Road, Kow-
loon.

NOTICE

VEHICULAR FERRY

Owing to repairs to Piers,
the Vehicular Ferry Service
will be suspended as
follows:—

Thursday Evening
the 17th March, 1955
The Service will be
suspended from 9.00 p.m. to
1.00 a.m.

Friday Morning
the 18th March, 1955
The first ferry will com-
mence at 7.20 a.m. instead of
6.20 a.m.

Tuesday Evening
the 22nd March, 1955
The Service will be
suspended from 7.00 p.m. to
1.00 a.m.

Wednesday Morning
the 23rd March, 1955
The first ferry will com-
mence at 7.20 a.m. instead of
6.20 a.m.

Tuesday Evening
the 29th March, 1955
The last ferry will leave at
12.00 Midnight instead of
1.00 a.m.

During the abovementioned
suspension Passenger Ferries
will be operated as usual.

THE HONG KONG &
YAUMATEI FERRY
CO., LTD.

Hongkong, 9th March, 1955.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

Consignees per
Cie des Messageries Maritimes
s/s "ANADYR"

are hereby notified that their cargo
will be discharged into the Hong
Kong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown
Co., Ltd.'s godown where it will be
at consignee's risk and subject to
the wharf's terms and conditions of
storage, and where delivery may be
obtained.

Damaged packages are to be left
in the godown for examination by
consignee's surveyors. Messrs. Goddard & Douglas
at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 12th March,
1955.

No Claims will be admitted after
the 30th March 1955, and the
all goods damaged and/or lost
after the 30th March, 1955, will be
subject to rules.

All claims against the vessel must
be presented to the undersigned on
or before the 15th April, 1955, or
they may not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.
CIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES
Hong Kong, 10th March 1955.

IT'S UNDIGNIFIED TO BE ON TIME FOR WORK Survey Of Australian Civil Service

Melbourne, Mar. 8.

Two out of every seven Australian wage earners work for the public services, either for the Federal Government, one of the State administrations or for municipalities.

Since 1939, the number of Federal Government employees has increased by 250 per cent, while the population of the country is up only 30 per cent.

Newspaper surveys published here have cited these figures to prove their contention that the growing weight of government in Australia is throwing a heavy burden on the rest of the community. The surveys say that the greater part of the increase results from the growing Federal service.

Recent spectacular pay increases to members of the civil service prompted these investigations. Just before Christmas 1954, rank-and-file public servants received rises of between £A00 and £A900 (£A8-£720 sterling) annually while departmental heads got from £A900 to £A2,000 (£720 to £1,600 sterling) a year more.

SEVERAL MILLION These increases will add several million pounds to the annual Federal wages bill. One survey, carried out by the chief correspondent of the *Industrial Melbourne Herald* in Canberra, said that the growing Commonwealth public service was inefficient.

The normal Australian working week was 40 hours, the correspondent said. The average civil servant worked only 36½ hours, or about 32 hours. If time for tea sessions were deducted.

He said that many senior public servants also regarded it as undignified to arrive at work on time in the mornings. Declaring that the "marshalled power" of the Commonwealth public service was a strong political force, the correspondent continued: "It has grown to be the single pressure group in the nation. The votes of its members and their families are sufficient to make or break any Government."

Expansion of the public service followed a deliberate policy on the part of some departments to increase their prestige, measured solely by the yardstick of the size of the staff. In doing so, manpower was taken from productive industry, where it was most needed.

FARM OUT The correspondent recommended several reforms, including making the service work a full 40-hour week, farming out more Government work, such as post office installations, to private contractors, integrating the functions of departments and stronger discipline.

"The surest way for a new deal is for a public revolt against these conditions," the correspondent concluded. "The man who is building the wealth which sustains them is still Australia's most influential voter."

Newspapers in Sydney recently joined in criticism of the Commonwealth public service by questioning the necessity for the Commonwealth employment service. This, they claimed, exists to find jobs for the unemployed at a time when official figures show that thousands more workers are needed in Australia.

They noted that the employment service took up office space and cost hundreds of thousands of pounds a year in wages.

Swiss Will Explore Greenland
Zurich, Mar. 9.
The Swiss Foundation for Alpine Exploration has announced here that a small group of Swiss explorers is being sent to Central Greenland this year in order to prepare the way for the main expedition which will be carried out in 1957/58.

This year's expedition will also offer its support to that of the French polar explorer, M. Paul-Emile Victor. It will safeguard this base, already established and keep access open to it.

At the same time, the Swiss Foundation announces that very large Swiss map-making expedition will be sent to the Himalayas next year.

Maldivé Victims Get Rice

Colombo, Mar. 8.

The Pakistan Government has offered a gift of 300 tons of rice to the famine-stricken victims of the Maldivé Islands, in the Indian Ocean recently, the Pakistani High Commission said today.

A spokesman said the rice is now en route here by sea and will be handed over to the representatives of the Maldivé Government here who will forward it to the islands. — France-Press.

Too Much Chrome On Vehicles

Valetta, Mar. 9.

It is estimated that there are now well over 16,000 licensed vehicles in Malta, making the island one of the most densely-populated car areas in the Mediterranean.

Estimates average the car and wheeled population of Malta at over 180 to the square mile. One of the cars are modern export models, with the German midsize cars coming into focus. High-powered American cars are much sought after, and a wealthy car owner is readily identified by the amount of chrome-work on his vehicle.

VARIETY OF NAMES

Tradesmen's vans and other industrial vehicles bear a variety of names, painted along the sides. They range from "Let Me Pass" and "Remember Me" to "Betty Grable" and "Ave Maria."

Bus owners are reluctantly taking off most of the chrome-work on the rear of their buses; the police have issued an order forbidding excessive use of the material as it claimed it distracts following cars. — Reuters.



Expanding Experiment With Regular Mail By Air Heads For Showdown

A bitter controversy between railroads and the Post Office over shipment of three-cent mail by air is building toward a climax.

Seventy-two railroads have petitioned the Civil Aeronautics Board to put a halt to the expanding Post Office programme of transporting regular mail by air rather than rail—a programme begun as a one-year "experiment" between Chicago and two East Coast cities in October of 1954 and which now, 17 months later, embraces more than 150 cities and towns in every section of the nation except the upper plains states.

Although the Post Office has made no official pronouncement

on future intentions, some railroadmen fear that as mail carriers they may go the same way to a certain extent, that canal and wagon operators did.

The railroads and the National Postal Transport Association which represents the men who sort mail on trains, have demanded a clarification of Post Office plans. If the department intends eventually to carry all three-cent mail to the 654 American cities served by scheduled airlines by plane, they want to know about it now.

The Post Office "experiment" with airlines began with service between Chicago and Washington. It could complete its journey by air. No mail is rerouted or held up so that it

can be shipped by air. If weather grounds planes, the mail goes by rail.

The most important effect of this on the railroads is the loss of revenue they previously carried. According to the Association of American Railroads, the rail lines have been collecting 340 million dollars a year from the Post Office for carrying all types of mail. Twelve percent of this—\$40 million—comes from first-class mail of the type which could go by air. No figures are available on the size of the inroad the airlines have so far made on this sum.

Although first-class revenue is only a relatively small part of total Post Office payment to the railroads, money earned through this service often spells the difference between profit and loss on a particular passenger train operation.

Admitting faster delivery is obtainable by air, the railroads maintain cost to the public is greatly increased. Mr. Gardner C. Hudson, News and Financial Editor of Railroad Age Forum, asserts the Post Office pays 18.66 cents per ton mile for carrying three-cent mail by air between New York and Chicago, while the cost by rail is only 8.71 cents.

Another objection of the railroads is that mail handling equipment in which, at Government insistence, they have invested nearly one billion dollars is in danger of becoming idle. The postal unions claim that since October of 1954 nearly 300 mail clerks have been laid off trains.

Further, the railroads—while losing business to the airlines—still have to maintain stand-by mail handling facilities on passenger runs for the times the airlines cannot handle the mail because of weather or lack of space.

The argument which the railroads are counting on to clinch the dispute in their favour is the contention that transporting by air a letter bearing only three cents postage is illegal. The law, says the railroad, puts a premium on airmail handling and says all airmail must carry an airmail stamp.

It is on this ground that the railroads have petitioned the CAB to halt the practice. No time for a hearing has been set.

The law has been circumvented so far by the Post Office with the claim it is only conducting an "experiment" to see if air shipment of three-cent mail is practical. Unless the law is changed, however, it is not likely the Post Office will be permitted to indefinitely continue its programme.

MPs Miss Film On Hiroshima

London, Mar. 9.

A special performance of the Japanese atomic bombing film *Children of Hiroshima* for British Members of Parliament at the House of Commons was postponed tonight.

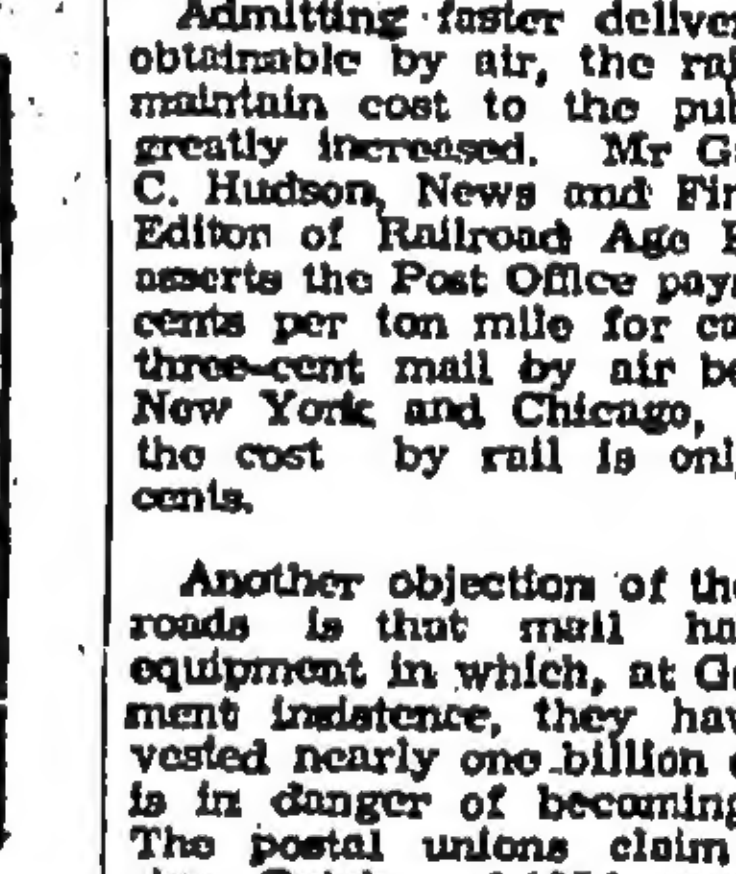
A spokesman for the International Film Bureau said that prints of the film depicting the horror of atomic devastation had been delayed. The showing has been put off until a later date.

Private viewings are being arranged in Britain for church leaders, prominent citizens, sociologists, civil defence experts and others.

The film opens in London, premiering to the public on March 11.

MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



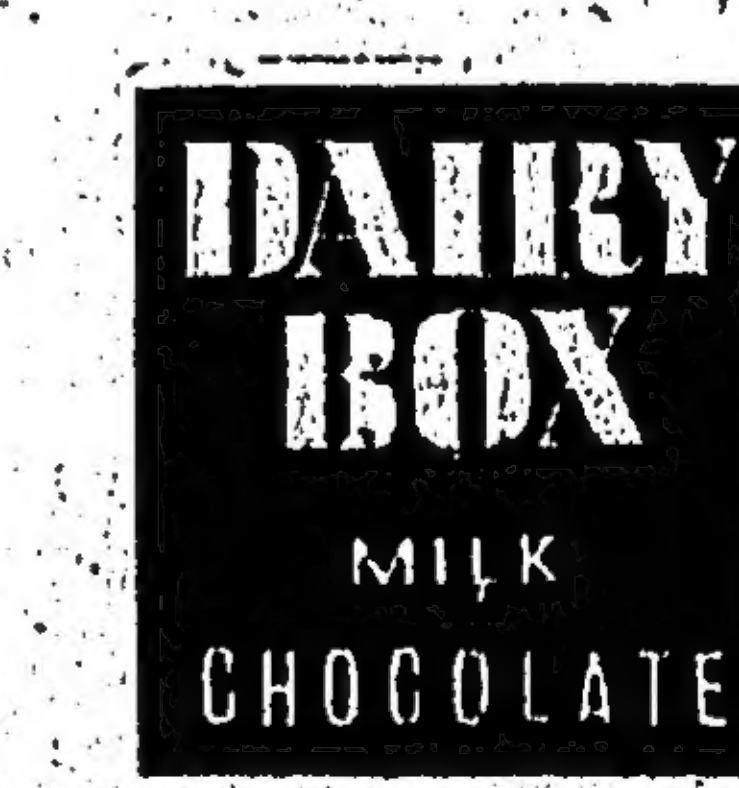
FERD'NAND

By Mik



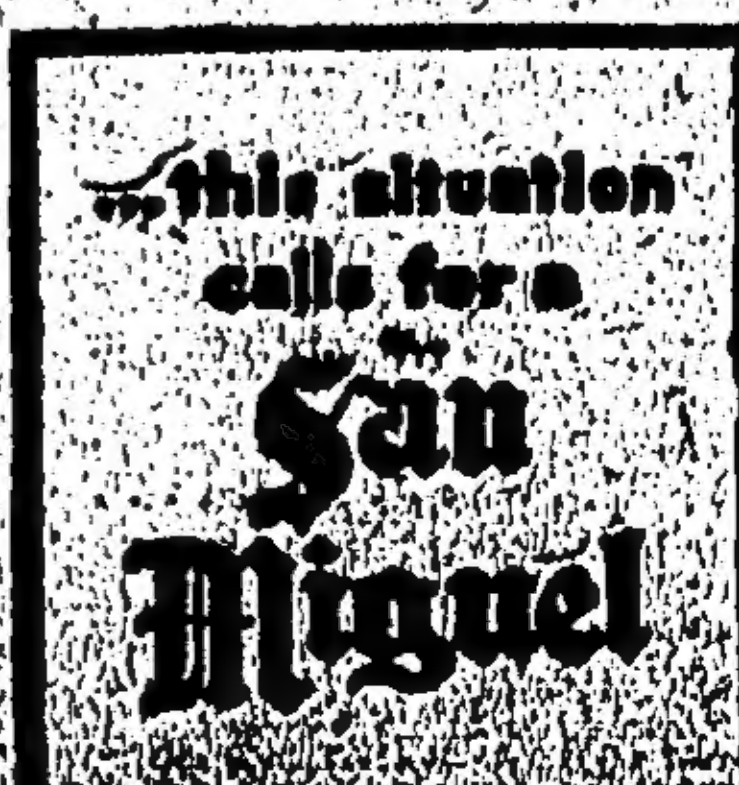
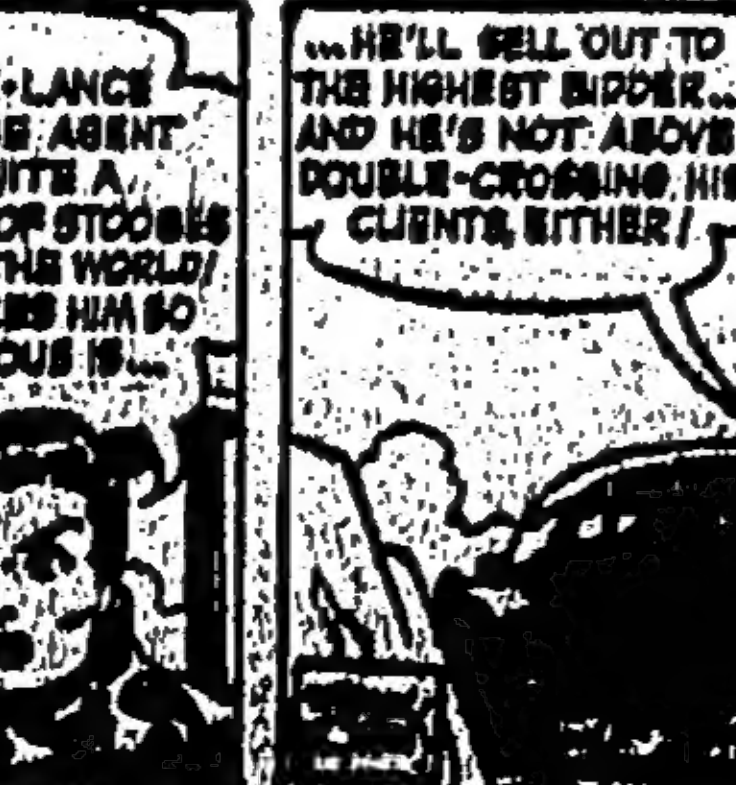
NANCY

By Ernie Bushmiller



JOHNNY HAZARD

By Frank Robbins



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CHINA MAIL

LARGEST WRITING MILEAGE GUARANTEED
SHEAFFER'S
Fineline
"500"
Available with extra fine and medium points.

Page 10 THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1955.

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

Downhill Route

AS a girl, Priscilla read stories of women who inhabited the fringes of society. The pitiable misfits and those ill-fortune had broken, to whom a crust of begged bread was a feast, and a bed in the casual ward, luxury.

As remote these were from Priscilla's world, as the women of a plying tribe in central Africa.

Priscilla grew up in a prosperous suburb of the Midlands city, and her girlhood was suitably conventional. Long years of schooling at a "ladies college," then for a year or two the normal suburban round.

TRAGEDY

PRESENTLY Priscilla married and the sun of everyone's approval shone upon the couple. In due course, a baby was born, a son. Approval was renewed and magnified. Then, when the baby was two, the marriage broke up. Priscilla divorced her husband.

She put a brave face upon the tragedy and faced it realistically. While her parents looked after the child, Priscilla took a course in typing and shorthand.

She found work and all went well until a short time ago.

WAITING

THEN she fell out of work and, for the first time, found difficulty in getting a new post.

In something like panic, with too little advance thought about details, Priscilla came to London.

She paid a week's rent for a room in a boarding house, and left her telephone number with a secretarial agency.

There she waited and watched with horror as necessities ate into the little money she possessed.

SOLACE

WHEN the week's end came, Priscilla had not money enough left to pay for another week's lodging. But the agency telephoned. "You can do one day's work next Monday," they said.

But how to live till then? In her anguish, Priscilla spent most of the little money she had on drink. The bout ended up in the Clerkenwell court on a charge of being drunk.

The rest of the week-end Priscilla spent in a reception centre—probably the roughest form of lodging to be found in London. The experience shattered Priscilla.

TERROR

ON the Monday morning, her first day at work, she stole £3 from a colleague's handbag. When she was caught and brought to the Clerkenwell court again, she cried: "I was absolutely terrified. That I'd have to undergo again that experience I had last week-end, and have to go to that terrible institution place again."

The magistrate, Mr. T. F. Davies, remanded her in custody, and when Priscilla next appeared, a slightly built woman, with iron-grey hair, a probation officer said: "I think she was in desperate straits."

"I'm wondering what we can do for her," the magistrate said. "I think she's been very friendly and decent," the probation officer said. "I think she could do with someone to help."

"I'm sorry, ashamed," Priscilla sobbed, with her head bowed.

"So you ought to be," the magistrate said. "You've started on a very slippery path."

Trembling seized Priscilla. "I shall put you on probation," said the magistrate, "but do remember that you are the one who can help yourself the most."

Priscilla nodded, a policeman took her arm and led her out, to begin the long struggle back from the half-world she had once only read about but now had experienced.

Rebels Slay Six

Batna, Algeria, Mar. 9. Six Algerians were slain yesterday by a band of some 50 rebels which attacked a small caravan near Chenecho, the police reported today.

The rebels killed six Algerians when they tried to fight off the attack, the police said.—United Press.

Soviet Comment Critical Of Eden's Statement

Moscow, Mar. 9.

Sir Anthony Eden's statement on Far Eastern affairs in Parliament yesterday was an attempt "to whitewash American aggressive action against the Chinese People's Republic in Formosa," the Soviet News Agency Tass said today.

His appeal to the Chinese Communists and Nationalists to renounce the use of force was made "to cover up the flagrant use of force applied by the USA which has sent her armed forces into foreign territory," the agency added.

Tass went on: "At the same time and contrary to Dulles's plans, Eden demanded that the Chiang Kai-shek clique should evacuate Quemoy and Matsu."

"The demands put forward by Eden intentionally omit the essence of the problem of the American occupation of the Chinese islands of Formosa and the Pescadores."

"Nevertheless, Eden felt able to say that if his demands were accepted, the British government would agree to 'discuss' on an international scale the problem of the Chinese representation in the United Nations."

"Eden added that after his talks with Dulles and afterwards with Premier Nehru he had reached the conclusion that at the present time the necessary conditions of progress did not yet exist for a discussion and solution of the Formosa problem."

"Eden's statement shows that despite all his differences with Dulles, the British Foreign Minister here last, the matter of Formosa not renounced the position of infringing the just rights of the Chinese people."

"HAMPERING SOLUTION"

"By hampering the solution of this problem and referring to the necessity of waiting and showing patience, Eden only supports American aggression in the Far East," Tass declared.

Tass also commented on yesterday's broadcast by Mr. John Foster Dulles, the American Secretary of State, saying it was "filled with hostile attacks on Communist China and North Vietnam."

It said he had emphasized that the Southeast Asia Treaty embraced the territory of Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam and had thus shown that America was "violating the Geneva agreements (on peace in Indo-China) which preclude the drawing of Cambodia and South Vietnam into any military groups."

His speech was an admission "that the United States would pursue its policy of gross interference in China's internal affairs, occupying Formosa and other Chinese islands," Tass declared.—Reuter.

Paris, Mar. 9. France would join "with pleasure" any Middle Eastern defence system likely to obtain the unanimous approval of all States in the area—including Israel—a Quai d'Orsay spokesman said today.

The spokesman said the French government was anxious to bridge the gap separating members of the two rival defence pacts recently concluded by some of the Arab States.

He indicated that, in "constant and friendly" consultation with the United States and Great Britain, France sought to bring together signatories of the Iraqi-Turkish pact and the Egyptian-Syrian-Arabian alliance.

"How this can be done has not yet been settled. But we believe there is a solution and hope we shall achieve it soon," he said.

"France would participate with pleasure in any constructive and durable system likely to win unanimous approval of all States in the area," he added.

FRENCH POLICY

The spokesman stressed that France's policy in the Middle East was opposed to any act that threatened to disturb the harmony and peace of the region.

He noted that France had received all assurances that the Iraqi-Turkish alliance did not threaten the independence of Syria or the Lebanon. But since this pact raised so much hostility among other Arab States as well as Israel, France, he said, did not feel this alliance could achieve the results intended unless it was approved by all the States in the Middle East.

He said France's chief immediate objective at present was to find a compromise solution to satisfy everyone and enable the creation of an effective Middle East defence system. Asked whether Israel would have to approve such a system, the spokesman replied that this was considered essential by France.

He did not explain Israel's part in such a pact with the Arab States hostile to her.—United Press.

Opposition To Rearmament

Bonn, Mar. 10.

A leading member of the opposition Social Democratic Party said last night that his party opposes the legislation to carry out German rearmament as provided for in the Paris agreements.

Herr Fritz Erler, a member of the Bundestag, wrote in the Party's Youth Magazine that the Social Democrats would oppose the military legislation as long as "various" efforts to achieve German unification were not undertaken.—France Press.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"Maybe it's not too bad! Now that we've broken one of her best dishes, Mom won't trust us to wash 'em again!"

Unloading Cargo Record By North Point Wharves

The North Point Wharves recently established a new unloading record for Hongkong, Major S. M. Churn told the annual general meeting of the Company this morning. In seven hours 1,448 tons were unloaded from four hatches, an average of 52 tons per hatch hour.

The year, said Major Churn, had been a difficult one, competition being keen and at times uneconomical.

Addressing the meeting, held in the offices of the Union Trading Company, Ltd., the Chairman said:

The net profit for the year was \$480,583. This is a fall of 1.1% per annum on the return for the previous year.

The year under review has been a difficult one, with keen and at times uneconomical competition, but I am pleased to report that your Company has not only maintained, but substantially increased the number of vessels using our facilities, and the tonnage handled increased by nearly 100%, though, as previously stated, the margin of profit has been reduced by extreme competition.

With the continued restrictions on the free trade of the Port, there has been a change in trend, with more transshipment cargo passing through our hands. The use of our facilities has been found by our valued clients to improve the speed of turnaround of their vessels, and our mechanized handling to reduce possible damage to cargo.

Recently, in seven working hours we unloaded from four hatches 1,448 tons, an average of 52 tons per hatch hour, which is a record not only for our wharves but also for this Port.

During April last year our new two-storey transit sheds "E" and "F" were completed and have proved a valuable and well used addition to our facilities. The office, which has been housed in an old house which we took over with the property in 1943, is to be transferred to a new block now under construction on Wharf Road at its junction with North Point Road, in the centre of our property.

A contract has, since the end of the financial year, been let for the completion of "H" Godown, adding 10,000 tons to our capacity.

I am again pleased to advise that the year under review was free of claims.

During the year, we were approached to sell a small area of our land and though your Board was not anxious to reduce our land holdings, it was felt that this opportunity should be taken to liquidate a substantial part of our overdraft.

This transaction resulted in a profit of \$1,312,492 and reduced the overdraft by one and a half million dollars.

LOYAL STAFF WORK

I have pleasure in commending to you the services of your staff during the year under review. They have served the Company in their usual, loyal and reliable way; the Company's interests are in loyal and willing hands.

Mr. F. X. Cleary proposed that the retiring Directors, Messrs N. V. A. Croucher and A. Klusman, be re-elected. This was seconded by Capt. R. F. Figgins, and carried.

Messrs Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. were re-appointed auditors on the proposal of Mr. N. V. A. Croucher.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. F. X. Cleary proposed that the retiring Directors, Messrs N. V. A. Croucher and A. Klusman, be re-elected. This was seconded by Capt. R. F. Figgins, and carried.

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A. S. WATSON'S PROFIT DECLINES BY \$462,847 Restriction In Dividends Explained By Chairman

An aggregate decline in profit on working account of \$462,847, was reported at the annual general meeting of A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd., this morning. Gross profit in aerated waters was down \$449,338 and that in the wine department by \$116,310. Offsetting this were increases in gross profit of \$48,805 in pharmacy and drugs and of \$22,276 in other revenue.

The Chairman, Mr. R. A. Wadeson, said the loss in profit on aerated waters was almost entirely due to the loss of business in exports and particularly in the Korean market.

Mr. Wadeson also explained to shareholders why the Company had decided this year to restrict dividends to \$1 on old shares and 50 cents on new shares.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Wadeson said:

The net profit for the year is \$1,014,761. To this has to be added the balance brought forward from the previous year of \$54,908, plus unclaimed dividends of \$3,005. After allowing for Corporation Profits Tax of \$140,000, the balance for appropriation is \$933,274 which Directors recommend be dealt with as follows: to pay a dividend of \$1.00 per share for the year, free of tax, on 500,000 shares (Old), \$500,000; to pay a dividend of \$0.50 per share for the year, free of tax, on 100,000 shares (New), \$50,000; to transfer to General Reserve, \$200,000; to write off the Compensation for Loss of Office to the late General Managers, \$100,000; and carry forward to the next Account, \$383,274.

By comparison with the previous year, the profit from Working Account is lower by \$462,847, and as this is quite substantial, I submit the following Working Account figures to facilitate the explanations to which you are entitled. Declines in gross profit were in Aerated Waters of \$449,338 and in Wine Department of \$116,310. Increases in gross profit were recorded in Pharmacy & Drugs of \$48,805 and in Other Revenue of \$22,276, whilst expenses were lower by \$82,017.

By far the most important part of our business is the manufacture and sale of Aerated Waters, and although our gross profit from this department has dropped by \$449,338, this is almost entirely due to something beyond our control—the loss of business in exports and particularly in the Korean market. It will be of interest to you to learn that, in spite of much greater competition, our local sales in volume were much the same as in 1954, and although sales in terms of money were slightly lower, the gross profit was almost unchanged.

Following the reference made last year to the continuation of negotiations with the Malayan Syndicate regarding the implementation of the scheme whereby our Associated Company in Malaya—A. S. Watson & Co. (Malaya) Ltd.—would manufacture our Aerated Water and Medicinal Specialties under franchise, I have to report that the necessary minimum capital required under the Agreement has now been subscribed and that the Franchise Agreement is ready to be adopted. Furthermore, a suitable site in Kuala Lumpur has been purchased by the Malayan Company; plans for a factory there have been drawn up and are now being considered by our staff and quotations for the machinery necessary to initiate production have been called for.

During the year, Mr. Li Fook-wo was invited to the Board to take the place of his illustrious father, and Mr. D. Benson was invited to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mr. R. Johansson.

CLEAR PICTURE

Mr. G. W. Sewell, seconded the adoption of the Report and Statement of Accounts and said: "We have listened with much interest to the Report just presented, and I am sure that all Shareholders appreciate the clear picture drawn by the Chairman regarding our Company's present position."

No one with a knowledge of business will cavil at the Board's decision to strengthen the Company's financial position particularly as the year ahead cannot be regarded with any degree of optimism from the point of view of general trading conditions.

We have the name, we have the goods and we have the staff to meet competition and to take full advantage of any improvement that may take place in the market, and to those who have worked for us so conscientiously, faithfully and efficiently we convey our grateful thanks, and with these remarks, I now have pleasure in formally seconding the adoption of the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended the October 31, 1954.

On the proposition of Mr. K. C. Johnson-Hill, seconded by Mr. Wong Chi-po, Messrs Li Fook-wo, D. Benson, W. A. Stewart and Col. J. D. Glagie were re-elected Directors.

Messrs Peat-Marwick Mitchell & Co. were re-appointed auditors on the proposition of Mr. R. A. Wadeson.

On examination of the Balance Sheet, you will observe that our Liquid Assets amount to \$4,922,311; liabilities and provisions (including overdraft) of \$2,183,743.

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Mail Notices

The latest times of posting shown below are those for unregistered correspondence posted at 6.30 p.m. on Thursdays. The latest posting times elsewhere which, in general, are earlier than the above, can be ascertained by enquiry at the local office. The latest posting times for registered letters are generally one hour earlier than the times shown below. Particulars regarding parcel mail can be ascertained by enquiry at any post office.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

Philippines, N. Borneo, 6 p.m.
Hawaii, U.S.A., 6 p.m.
Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, 6 p.m.

By Surface

Italy, 3 p.m.
Malaya, Ceylon, India, Aden, Middle East, Great Britain & Europe, 6 p.m.
Macao, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

Philippines, 6 a.m.

Thailand, Burma, India, Pakistan, Egypt, Switzerland, France, Great Britain, 9 a.m.

Yokohama, Japan, Korea, 10 a.m.

Indo-China, Java, Sumatra, Malaya, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon, 6 p.m.

China, People's Republic, 6.30 a.m.

Thailand, 6 a.m.

Japan, Hawaii, 2 p.m.

Philippines, 2 p.m.

Macao, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

Thailand, Burma, India, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 9 a.m.

Philippines, 6 a.m.

Yokohama, Japan, Korea, 6 p.m.

Indo-China, Java, Sumatra, Malaya, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon, 6 p.m.

China, People's Republic, 6.30 a.m.

Thailand, 6 a.m.

Japan, Hawaii, 2 p.m.

Philippines, 2 p.m.

Macao, 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

Thailand, Burma, India, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 9 a.m.

Philippines, 6 a.m.

Yokohama, Japan, Korea, 6 p.m.

Indo-China, Java, Sumatra, Malaya, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon, 6 p.m.

China, People's Republic, 6.30 a.m.

Thailand, 6 a.m.

Japan, Hawaii, 2 p.m.

Philippines, 2 p.m.

Macao, 6 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 14

Thailand, Burma, India, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 9 a.m.

Philippines, 6 a.m.

Yokohama, Japan, Korea, 6 p.m.

Indo-China, Java, Sumatra, Malaya, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon, 6 p.m.

China, People's Republic, 6.30 a.m.

Thailand, 6 a.m.

Japan, Hawaii, 2 p.m.

Philippines, 2 p.m.

Macao, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

Thailand, Burma, India, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 9 a.m.

Philippines, 6 a.m.

Yokohama, Japan, Korea, 6 p.m.

Indo-China, Java, Sumatra, Malaya, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon, 6 p.m.

China, People's Republic, 6.30 a.m.

Thailand, 6 a.m.

Japan, Hawaii, 2 p.m.

Philippines, 2 p.m.

Macao, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

Thailand, Burma, India, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 9 a.m.

Philippines, 6 a.m.

Yokohama, Japan, Korea, 6 p.m.

Indo-China, Java, Sumatra, Malaya, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon, 6 p.m.

China, People's Republic, 6.30 a.m.

Thailand, 6 a.m.

Japan, Hawaii, 2 p.m.

Philippines, 2 p.m.

Macao, 6 p.m.